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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

I am interested in Dorothy Lundt. Who is she? Can it be that she really touches this nineteenth century in a tangible, human form, or is she a wraith that has wandered back from the Dark Ages? Have you seen her? I'll venture to guess that whatever else she is, she is no crusader. And I will make the further guess that if the writer turns out to be a man even in his hands the pen is mightier than the sword would be.

I would recommend to Dorothy Lundt that she might learn a lesson of endurance by subsisting on hard tack and salt pork for a week or two, and writing with a stub pen which some one else had discarded, in the intervals of his meals. No! this age needs more than forced heroism, more than physical endurance, more than blind obedience. Up the heights on whose august slopes the toiling feet of the hopeful millions are set, we need some other signal than a flaring, battle-stained torch to lead us. What Dorothy Lundt sees are indeed fleeting shows.

And pray what is the twentieth century to bequeath to its children? The nineteenth has brought freedom from chattel slavery. Shall we not go on, up and on, until the heights are gained?
I. W. B.

The popular proposals concerning a great navy appear to meet with the general approval of the daily paper—the mooted differences being only points of detail—e. g., as to whether big battle-ships or monitors may be the best. The religious press doesn't appear to be awake to the peril threatening our future peace. It ought to take firm hold of the people's conscience, as the Louisiana Lottery scheme has done. Congress seems favorable to the appropriation, and a vote I presume will soon be had.

Apprehending that the women who are so interested in promoting temperance were probably by no means alive to what is apparently impending, and what the enactment of such a measure would mean in its effect upon the temperance cause, I wrote to the *Union Signal* (printed in last week's issue) reminding its readers of the historic fact that the anti-liquor reform was making marked progress when the Civil War broke out and not only hindered it, but set it back immensely, so that it was only under a sense of the frightful wrong, misery and waste entailed that woman arose (in 1871) with a forlorn hope that she might in God's providence do somewhat to stop the desolating flood. Were our Christian women to rise they would with united front withstand this *great sin* of preparation for war. God will not be mocked.
J. W. L.

LEGAL KILLING.

The infliction of the death penalty is a barbarism which has a pernicious moral effect, and has no warrant in Scripture. It is authentically known to have been visited upon persons guiltless of the crimes charged. It has not been proven to be more deterrent than is the imposition of the penalty of imprisonment for life, and that the penalty, if made unalterable, except upon proof of innocence subsequently established (as I believe is now the law in the State of Maine), would be more accordant with our civilization and profession of Christianity than is the law of life for life which now obtains.—*Josiah W. Leeds.*

HOMICIDE AND HANGINGS.

The following figures were collected by the Chicago *Tribune*.

Six years of United States murders (1884–1889 inclusive).

	Murders.	Legal Executions.	Lynchings.
1884	3,377	103	219
1885	1,808	108	181
1886	1,499	83	133
1887	2,335	79	123
1888	2,184	87	144
1889	3,567	98	175
Total of 6 yrs.	14,770	558	975

Hence, of nearly 15,000 known murders in the six years, less than four per cent. were followed by legal executions. Further there were a large number of suicides, and probably many unreported murders. In the four States where the capital penalty is abolished, conditions are stated by competent authorities to be less unsatisfactory than elsewhere. The lynchings nearly all take place in States which retain the gallows.

Maine abolished capital punishment in 1876, restored it in 1883, and again abolished it in 1887. The Warden of the State prison (Mr. S. H. Allen) writes (1890): "I think it is the general feeling that murders are no more frequent now than when the death penalty existed." The Warden of Rhode Island State prison (Mr. Nelson Viall) also writes (1890): I do not believe the death penalty will ever be restored in our State, or that the crime of murder has increased in consequence of the change."

THE BEHRING SEA DISPUTE.

News from Canada indicates that people in the Dominion are in a state of pronounced agitation as to the Behring Sea, and that they believe the United States Government has given orders to reinforce its armed fleet in those waters and that there is serious danger of war. It is difficult to understand what can be the basis of this excitement across the northern border, for the reason that the latest documents which relate to Behring Sea are interpreted in Washington as giving a more peaceful outlook to the situation than has existed for many months. In fact, so far from offering any obstacles to a peaceful settlement, those who are the best informed as to the real meaning of the attitude of Secretary Blaine say that it is one which is intended to invite compromise from Great Britain, and which in point of fact seeks a settlement of the points at issue first by a commission and next by arbitration. In other words, Secretary Blaine in January, 1891, appears to have indicated that he will accept that which he rejected in his communication to the British Minister last summer.—*Boston Journal.*

WHAT PEACE SOCIETIES HAVE DONE.

The general peace among the nations of Christendom—though not always between its rulers and their subjects—from the overthrow of Napoleon in 1815 to the Turco-Russian war in 1854, nearly forty years, was as fairly attributable, under God, to the efforts of the friends of peace, as the spread of Christianity among the heathen is to the missionary enterprise, or the triumphs of temperance to labors in that cause.—*Beckwith.*